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Classification Control:

Rec'd:

1747

April 4, 1961

5:36 p.m.

1961 APR 5 AM 7 19

FROM: Tananarive

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 263, April 4, 7 p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

SENT DEPARTMENT 263; REPEATED INFORMATION PARIS 65, MOSCOW 1.

Soviet trade mission arrived Tananarive April 3 via Air France. Press identifies members as Yvan Crichine (Vice Minister of Foreign Commerce), Igor Kolossovski (Chief of Economic Matters in USSR Foreign Office), and interpreter named Iourisychthikov. AFP says Malagasy Economic Minister Jacques Rabemananjara during recent visit in Paris invited Soviets send mission.

Upon deplaning Soviets referred to "kind invitation from your government" and said trade mission would examine with competent Malagasy agencies possibilities of establishing and developing trade relations. Mission was met at airport by Rene Rasidy (GOM Agriculture Minister), Paul Rouleau (Chief of Cabinet of Tsiranana) and representative of GOM Foreign Office. It being received today by Calvin Tsiebo, Vice President GOM in absence Tsiranana who is attending Senegal independence celebrations Dakar.

## Comments:

(1) Department's Biographic Directory No. 272 of August 1960 identifies I. T. Grishin as one of eight Deputy Ministers of Foreign Trade and I. K. Kolosovskiy as Deputy Chief of African Countries Division USSR Ministry Foreign Affairs. Embassy would appreciate additional guidance on these men and on interpreter.

(2) Prospect this mission was kept very quiet by GOM and arrival on scene at this time wholly unexpected although Soviet desires

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ACTION ASSIGNED TO: RFB/B1	ACTION TAKEN: Info noted	DATE OF ACTION: 4-20-61	DIRECTIONS TO RM/R: File
NAME OF OFFICER & OFFICE SYMBOL: Belousovskiy RFB/B1			

461.70F41/4-461

HBS

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-2- 263, April 4, 7 p.m. from Tananarive

desires this regard were known. Department will recall that Soviet delegation to Malagasy independence celebration last July came ready to negotiate trade agreement and set up aid mission (our G-18, August 25, 1960). COM is apparently readier now than then to talk business and opposition parties keep harping on need for GOM have good relations with all countries east and west.

(3) Embassy feels we must now face fact of increasing Soviet bloc penetration here and would not be much surprised if this is prelude to Soviet diplomatic representation. We would be much more surprised, however if GOM exchanged representatives.

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SMD:BHH/4

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INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Classification

Control: 3060

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Rec'd: April 6, 1961  
11:27 a.m.

Info

FROM: Tananarive

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TO: Secretary of State

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NO: 268, April 4, 6 p.m.

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SENT DEPARTMENT 268, REPEATED INFORMATION PARIS 67

EMBTEL 266.

French HIREP reports it had no forewarning Soviet trade mission but understands it is directly related to proposal made by Soviet delegation to Malagasy independence fetes last July that trade mission be received. At that time Malagasy temporized on grounds they were too busy. Soviets renewed proposal several times and finally when Jacques Rabemananjara was in Paris on return from Dakar in February. Rabemananjara checked with Tsiranana who gave permission.

French HIREP has told Malagasy he thinks they giving more importance to mission than rank of members deserves and has expressed disappointment friendly Embassies were not kept informed.

Vice President Calvin Tsiebo told Ambassador last night Malagasy were being "evasive" in talks with Soviets, but pointed out Malagasy desire to sell although unable to buy.

Comments: Mission has created much curiosity and sparked good deal press coverage although radio-Madagascar is silent on subject and also AFP.

Rumors being more and more confirmed that Czech trade mission will arrive before end of April. French HIREP says that too will be follow-up on Czech delegation Malagasy independence fetss.

One fuzzy rumor indicates two more Soviets will "soon" be coming on UNESCO business.

SW:DT

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ACTION ASSIGNED TO: <i>Chapin</i>	ACTION TAKEN: <i>NAR</i>	DATE OF ACTION: <i>4/24/61</i>	DIRECTIONS TO RM/R: <i>File</i>
NAME OF OFFICER & OFFICE SYMBOL: <i>AF/AFB</i>			

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INCOMING TELEGRAM

## Department of State

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Control: 2429

Rec'd: April 5, 1961

1961 APR 6 AM 7 27

1:57 p.m.

FROM: Tananarive

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 266, April 5, 4 p.m.

SENT DEPARTMENT 266, REPEATED INFORMATION PARIS 66.

Re EMBTEL 263.

Soviet Trade Mission received visas good for one month from Malagasy High Representative in Paris on March 30. In Tananarive they are housed in a Malagasy Government-owned villa.

After receiving mission yesterday Vice President Calvin Tsiebo told press he had explained to Soviets economic situation, particularly heavy excess of imports over exports, and said a major consideration was promotion exports of coffee, cassava, vanilla, graphite and mica.

Following is program as known so far:

April 5: Meetings with Interior Minister Andre Resampa, Foreign Minister Albert Sylla, Agriculture Minister Rene Rasidy, Public Works Minister Eugene Lechat.

April 6: Meetings with Finance Minister Paul Longuet and Information Secretary State Alfred Rajaonarivelo. Work session at Ministry of National Economy.

April 7: Meetings with National Assembly President Alfred Nany and Senate President Jules Ravony. Work session at Chamber of Commerce.

April 8: Excursion and lunch at Mantosoa Lake.

/April 9

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## INCOMING TELEGRAM

## Department of State

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## OFFICIAL USE ONLY

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Control: 4422

Rec'd: April 7, 1961  
6:19 p.m.AF  
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FROM: Tananarive

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 271, April 7, 10 p.m.

SENT DEPARTMENT 271; REPEATED INFORMATION PARIS 68

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AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE April 7, 1961 reports communique issued by National Economy Minister Jacques Rabeman Anjara after receiving Soviet trade mission April 5.

1. Mission noted trade possibilities offered by Madagascar in agriculture and mineral products.

2. Mission assured Minister USSR desires friendly relations and is ready to aid young Malagasy republic in latter's effort attain and consolidate economic independence, without meddling in Internal Affairs.

3. National Economy Minister thanked Russian Mission and declared Malagasy hospitality leads it to want friendship with all persons.

RMR

4. Minister however underscored reasons for certain hesitations toward Russians by Malagasy. He pointed to prejudice of Soviet press against Malagasy Government and to systematic hostility against government shown by Malagasy citizens returning from Communist countries.

5. Rabeman Anjara told Soviet Mission that question of establishing a permanent Soviet delegation depended on President Tsiranana and Malagasy Council of Ministers.

6. Madagascar could not agree to trade on equal value basis desired by Russians because Russia is great industrial power and Madagascar

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-2- 271, April 7, 10 p.m. from Tananarive

and Madagascar young underdeveloped country.

7. If Soviet Government really wants to help Madagascar it can do so by purchasing on favorable terms surplus coffee and vanilla.

Comment: Interesting inference in above is Soviet gambit to install permanent trade delegation.

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CONFIDENTIAL

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Control: 4881  
Rec'd: April 8, 1961  
2:21 p.m.

FROM: Tananarive

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 273, April 8, 4 p.m.

SENT DEPARTMENT 273; REPEATED INFORMATION PARIS 69.

Embassy assessment of Soviet-Malagasy developments.

Ever since Madagascar's independence Soviets have been anxious obtain toe-hold in country. GOM has been reluctant to permit this through fear subversion. Opposition parties (both commie-dominated AKFM and non-Communist nationalist parties), however, have consistently urged GOM establish relations with east as well as west in order maintain position "neutrality", pointing out benefits which other countries such as Mali have obtained by adopting such position. There is some indication National Economy Minister Rabemananjara himself may be inclined believe Madagascar should join "Third Force" along lines sometimes attributed to De Gaulle. Also rumored that Malagasy high representative Paris, Rakoto-Ratsimamanga at best is neutralist, rather than pro-west. Interior Minister Resampa at Nenni-Socialist Congress, Milan, March 17 gave surprisingly leftest speech which included following sentence: "If West with its usual hesitations, equivocates in coming to our aid, then we shall call upon peoples of the East, who are also our brothers". (See EMDESP 185 for details and comment.)

After eight months of needling Malagasy High Representation Paris and such visitors to Paris and Rabemananjara, approval final 14 given for Soviet commercial mission visit Madagascar. Not clear by whom or when decision taken, but almost inconceivable decision not approved by Tsiranana. Foreign Office officials obviously irritated that decision taken without consultation

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-2- 273, April 8, 4 p.m., from Tananarive

consultation with them. First they heard of Soviet missions arrival was when Malagasy High Representation Paris telephoned Foreign Office Saturday, April 1 to inform Foreign Office mission would be arriving Monday, April 3, and asked Foreign Office set up appropriate schedule. Why full red carpet treatment exceeding protocol requirements was offered still a mystery.

It now seems that Vice-President Tshiebo, in absence of Tsiranana, finds he has been by tail and is most uncomfortable. He and GOM are taking line that (1) Madagascar can only sell, not buy (which attitude being criticised by opposition press) and (2) Tsiranana and Council of Ministers must decide future from Malagasy-Soviet relations.

French High Representative Soucadoux told group selected Ambassadors March 6 he worried by subversive potentialities Soviet presence. He apparently not, however, recommending to his government that latter intervene at this stage with Tsiranana in Paris or that he confer with GOM. After much consideration matter, I myself do not see on what basis USG could urge GOM not trade with Soviet bloc and even not eventually permit Soviets establish some form of permanent presence in Madagascar particularly since Tsiranana himself fully aware subversion danger.

Conclusion: Irrespective of how final decision was made it may have been influenced by following:

1. Desire undercut criticism by local political opposition parties.
2. Possible advice by such members of government itself as Rabemamanjara, Resampa, and Rakoto-Ratsimamanga.

3. Simple

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-3- 273, April 8, 4 p.m., from Tananarive

3. Simple desire try expand Malagasy trade.

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Control: 5803  
Rec'd: April 11, 1961  
1:20 a.m.

Info

FROM: Tananarive

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TO: Secretary of State

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NO: 274, April 10, 11 p.m.

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SENT DEPARTMENT 274; REPEATED INFORMATION PARIS 70

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PEmbassy telegram 271 and 273 re Soviet trade mission.USIA  
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Jacques Regnault, director of cabinet to French High Representative Saucadaux, thinks Malagasy President Tsiranana largely responsible for mission. He says Tsiranana has ambitions of playing an international role and accepted principle of Soviet mission as means of demonstrating his independence vis-a-vis France and free world countries.

OSD  
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But it was Malagasy High Representative in Paris, Albert Rakoto-Ratsimamanga, who engineered timing of mission in such a way that government was caught unprepared. Regnault regards Rakoto-Ratsimamanga as dangerous left-winger whose great ambition is to be invited to Moscow by Soviet Academy of Science, who is strongly influenced by his mistress named Ferrand, who is close friend of self-proclaimed Communist Pierre Boiteau who was ousted from Madagascar by French Governor Pierre de Chevigne at time of 1947 rebellion despite Boiteau status as councilor of French Union Assembly. Regnault says Rakoto-Ratsimamanga commonly asserts Tsiranana is wrong in tying Madagascar with West and thinks Madagascar should be "link" between East and West.

RMR

## Comment:

1. Both Foreign Office and Ministry of Interior report they had no warning about mission.
2. We have heard from many sources that Rakoto-Ratsimamanga is not

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NAME OF OFFICER: <i>AP/AFE</i>		DATE OF ACTION: <i>4/11/61</i>			
OFFICE SYMBOL: <i>AP/AFE</i>					

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-2- 274, April 10, 11 p.m. from Tananarive

is not friendly with Tsiranana or PSD, is arrogant, ambitious, and pro-Communist. We suspect that if in Madagascar he would be in AKFM.

BARTLETT

JAA:JVC/14

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AIR POUCH

PRIORITY

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(Security Classification)

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : Amembassy TANANARIVE

188

DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

April 11, 1961

DATE

REF : Embtel 271

67 For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.
	REC'D 4/21	IN F O RM/R-2 INR-7 Rep-1 E-7 EUR-5 ID-4 CIA-10 USA-10 Com-10 DDP-8 TR-3 FRB-3 NMIB-4

SUBJECT: Communiqué on Soviet Trade Mission issued by Malagasy Ministry of National Economy  
TAR-2

Following is the full text of the communiqué issued by the Ministry of National Economy after the Soviet Trade Mission had called on Jacques RABEMANANJARA, Minister of State for National Economy, on April 5, 1961.

\*\*\*

"La Mission Economique Soviétique, dirigée par M. Yvan GRICHINE, Vice-Ministre du Commerce Extérieur de l'U.R.S.S., arrivée Lundi à Tananarive, a rendu une visite protocolaire à M. Jacques RABEMANANJARA, Ministre d'Etat chargé de l'Economie Nationale, le 5 Avril 1961 à 16 heures.

Il a été procédé à un large échange de vues, notamment sur le plan de l'économie et du commerce.

Enchantée de la beauté du Pays et de la variété de son climat, la Mission Russe n'a pas caché sa joie de faire connaissance avec MADAGASCAR. Elle a déjà remarqué les diverses possibilités offertes par l'Ile, tant dans le domaine agricole que dans celui du sous-sol: mines, pierres précieuses, etc.

Elle a fait part au Ministre d'Etat du désir de l'U.R.S.S. d'entretenir davantage des relations d'amitié avec Madagascar: l'U.R.S.S. serait prête à aider la jeune République Malgache dans son effort pour conquérir et consolider son indépendance économique, sans vouloir, en aucune façon, s'immiscer dans les affaires intérieures du Pays.

Le Ministre de l'Economie Nationale a remercié la Mission Russe de ses bonnes paroles. Il a souligné le sens sacré de l'hospitalité qui caractérise le peuple malgache et qui amène celui-ci à vouloir être l'ami de toute Nation éprise, comme lui, de paix et de liberté.

Le Ministre a tenu, toutefois, à le faire remarquer à ses hôtes: le Peuple Malgache est aussi un peuple profondément croyant, l'ayant

JRJacobs:ms

REPORTER

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APR 15 1961

461. 70F41/4-1161

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Encl. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Desp. No. 188  
From Tananarive

été avant même l'introduction du christianisme à Madagascar.

Il n'a pas manqué de préciser, en toute franchise, à ses visiteurs des raisons de certaines réticences à leur égard de la part de bien des milieux malgaches.

Lors des Fêtes de l'Indépendance Malgache en 1960, le journaliste de la Délégation Russe que le Gouvernement Malgache avait invité n'a pas eu scrupule de publier des articles tendancieux contre le Gouvernement Malgache; d'autre part, les ressortissants malgaches, de retour des Pays de l'EST, se signalent par leur hostilité systématique contre le Gouvernement de leur Patrie. Ce n'est là qu'une simple constatation, mais elle n'est pas de nature à favoriser un climat de confiance et de cordialité.

Elle n'exclut certes pas, de la part des dirigeants malgaches, la volonté d'examiner et d'étudier avec intérêt toute proposition de collaboration entre les deux peuples."

La Mission Russe a déclaré que les Soviets reconnaissent la liberté de pensée et de religion et qu'il existe un nombre immense de croyants en RUSSIE. Elle a exprimé son désir d'avoir une Délégation permanente à MADAGASCAR et d'accroître les échanges commerciaux entre les deux Pays.

M. RABEMANANJARA a répondu sur ces deux points:

L'installation à TANANARIVE d'une Délégation permanente russe est une question qui relève essentiellement du Président de la République et du Conseil des Ministres.

Quant aux échanges commerciaux, une déclaration à la presse de la Mission Russe, ajoute le Ministre, a précisé que vous semblez souhaiter une égalité de valeur des importations et des exportations.

Or, poursuit M. RABEMANANJARA, cette égalité ne paraît pas pensable, la RUSSIE est une des plus grandes Puissances du Monde: un Pays archi-équipé et sur-développé. MADAGASCAR est un jeune Pays sous-développé: si la RUSSIE veut réellement l'aider, ce serait en achetant le plus possible de ses produits et tout particulièrement ceux dont les cours s'avèrent très fragiles sur le marché mondial, le café et la vanille par exemple.

Le café n'est pas seulement produit par des grosses entreprises, mais il constitue pour de petits paysans, en particulier de la Côte Est, une ressource vitale. Sa vente à l'extérieur assurerait à nos paysans un meilleur niveau de vie. Il en va de même pour la vanille: elle fait vivre des entreprises importantes, aussi bien que de petits producteurs et des coopératives. Toute aide qui leur est apportée sous forme d'achat à des tarifs honnêtes de leur vanille, les encourage, favorise leurs conditions de vie et permet en plus l'amélioration de leurs cultures.

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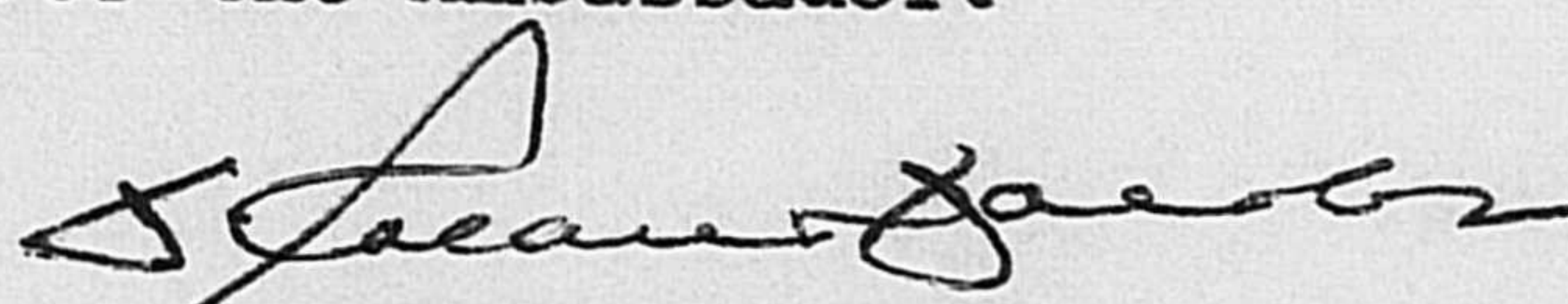
Desp. No. 188

From Tananarive

C'est dans cet esprit que le Jeudi 6 Avril, il y aura avec vous et nos techniciens une séance de travail. Espérons, conclut le Ministre, qu'il en sortira des réalisations concrètes, tenant compte de ces considérations générales et basées sur le respect absolu de la souveraineté nationale de chaque partenaire."

Tananarive, le 7 Avril 1961

For the Ambassador:



J. Roland Jacobs  
Counselor of Embassy

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*Jm*



INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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CORRECTION ISSUE

56 58  
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Control: 9013

4/18/61, 8:30 am  
hmr

Rec'd: April 14, 1961

3:04 p.m.

AF

Info

FROM: Tananarive - Corrected Copy

SS

TO: Secretary of State

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NO: 282, April 14, 5 p.m.

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SENT DEPARTMENT 282; REPEATED INFORMATION PARIS 74, MOSCOW 2

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According AFP following hour-long meeting between Tsiranana and Soviet commercial delegation April 13, President made following statements.

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(1) Madagascar prepared sell its products to USSR but could not buy from USSR.

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(2) Re Soviet request establish embassy or permanent commercial representation in Tananarive (direct quote) "I replied to them that it was still too early since we do not yet know each other sufficiently and since our two countries are not associated through economic agreements."

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(3) He had not concealed from Russian delegates that (direct quote) "the Malagasy were afraid of them. Perhaps I disappointed them in telling them this, but I did not wish to hide the truth from them."

COM

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Ambassador has asked for appointment with Tsiranana to discuss results Yaounde conference and implications of Soviet commercial delegation visit.

BARLETT

NM-2

Correction made  
by RM/R  
4/19/61

SEP 13 1961

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Action

Control: 10526

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Rec'd: April 17, 1961

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5:08 p.m.

FROM: Tananarive

TO: Secretary of State

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NO: 286, April 17, 8 p.m.

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SENT DEPARTMENT 286, REPEATED INFORMATION PARIS 75, USUN 33.

During hour-long meeting with Tsiranana April 15 President:

1. Expressed deep thanks and pleasure re USG's gift of \$5,000 for Fort Dauphin tornado victims (DEPTEL 192).
2. Said reception Soviet commercial mission by GOM not result any change in GOM policy toward Soviet bloc. For last year Soviet Embassy Paris had been badgering Malagasy Embassy for permission send delegation Madagascar. During his recent visit Dakar, his approval sought for two Soviet UNESCO staff members visit Madagascar. He could not refuse request. Instead of two UNESCO officials, however, "cunning" (Malin) Russians substituted two Moscow officials" at last moment. Better, though, to have trade rather than Foreign Office delegation. Tsiranana had told delegation Madagascar in position only to sell surplus products to USSR, not able, because it was poor, to buy from Soviets. He had also told trade delegation Malagasy were fearful of Communist bloc countries because they did not believe in God. I took occasion cite ways in which Communist bloc had used trade relations for subversive purposes in other countries.
3. In addition summarizing well publicized results Yaounde conference, said decision taken by all members, including Senegal, not permit establishment permanent Soviet diplomatic mission their countries for at least another year. Explained one reason why "the twelve" welcomed other African states to join them was hope that they might attract Guinea and Mali (which Tsiranana kept referring to as Sudan) and thus help free them from meshes (engrenage) of Communists.

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461.70F41/4-1761

LWS



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-2-286, April 17, 8 p.m. from Tananarive

4. In reaction my mentioning our leader grant program, Tsiranana saw no reason why USG should not invite GOM Ministers to visit US. Suggested Parliamentarians be invited too.

5. Seemed surprised economic bilateral and air projects moving so slowly, saying he would take up matter with Minister National Economy and Commissioner General of Planning.

Comment: President seemed tired. Certainly not usual buoyant self. Explained he had such bad cold in his throat he could not drink plain water, ordered tea and pepper instead, spoke in whisper, and cancelled all further appointments for Saturday and Sunday except new UNTAB resident representative, J.J. Cebe-Habersky, US national.

Whether elaborate story of Soviets switching of officers going to Madagascar completely true in all respects (and, if so, would tend reflect adversely on Malagasy high representative in Paris as well as Soviets), Tsiranana gave clear impression neither he nor GOM was contemplating any fundamental change in pro-western orientation. Some development however in Malagasy-Soviet trade should not be ruled out or even a permanent Soviet trade mission at some future date.

BARTLETT

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